

Water Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSAPEQUA WATER DISTRICT

Serving Massapequa and
The Village of Massapequa Park

www.massapequawater.com

WINTER 2011

From the Desk of the Superintendent

I am pleased to announce that on September 6, 2011 the Town of Oyster Bay approved the Massapequa Water District bonding request for Capital Improvements to maintain and improve water quality, meet fire fighting demands, maintain adequate storage capacity, and maintain the integrity of the District's existing infrastructure. Please note this is the first bond application by the District in over 10 years. The total amount requested is \$11.9 million in funds. Some of the key improvements are listed below:

■ **Water Treatment** – Construction of an iron removal plant to be in compliance with EPA/DOH requirements for the amount of iron allowed in drinking water supplies.

■ **Water Distribution** – Replacement of the Sunrise Highway water main crossings. These crossings supply approximately one half of our customers south of Sunrise Highway where supply wells are currently limited by the NYSDEC.

■ **Electrical improvements and upgrades** at various well sites to improve electrical efficiency.

■ **Mandated safety related improvements** to facilities and security upgrades to improve water supply protection in a post 911 world.

■ **The District must prepare for potential groundwater contamination** from the approaching Northrop Grumman / Navy Contamination Plume. * see note below

Most of this proposed work has either already begun or is in the planning stages. The District intends to use reserve funds and rate adjustments to offset the tax impact during the peak years of bond repayment. The District will hold non-mandated public meetings for some of the projects to insure public input. I encourage all residents to watch our website for meeting updates and for the latest information regarding the Grumman / Navy contamination plume.

** The Grumman / Navy provision is contingent only if wells become contaminated. Should this occur, the cost of bonding for the temporary treatment would be approximately \$ 1,900,000.00. If the District is successful in our demands that governmental agencies stop the plume from entering our water district or to allow alternative pure water supply sources this amount will not be borrowed.*



Stanley Carey, Superintendent

Your Board of Commissioners is committed to and has been hard at work convincing these agencies as well as public officials to stop the contamination and avoid the use of wellhead treatment before it reaches our supply wells. (Please see related article and visit our website)

Outstanding Response by District Personnel for Hurricane Irene

The Massapequa Water District staff did an outstanding job with the planning and response to Hurricane Irene, this past summer. As the storm set its sights on Long Island, personnel were busy preparing for the worst. In the days leading up to the hurricane District Superintendent Stan Carey held daily staff meetings to ensure the District was prepared for the worst possible scenario. In order to provide continued service and critical fire protection, specific steps needed to be followed in an effort to be fully prepared. Some of the steps taken were: operate all back up generators, fuel all essential equipment, review emergency plan, test back up communication systems,

review health department contacts, contact long term fuel suppliers, re-fill all chemical treatment storage tanks, test emergency interconnections with neighboring districts, and plan for personnel availability for both during and after the storm.

Although the storm caused damage to several District properties, the District did not lose power at any well site. Perhaps the most critical casualty was the loss of our Cablevision communication system which is used by the District to control its tank level, well operations, and treatment. For five days District personnel had to rely on the old fashion method of monitoring tank level by use

of a manual pressure gauge. District personnel did an exceptional job working shifts for five days, around the clock, assuring that the residents of the District had an uninterrupted supply of water for both drinking and potential fire emergencies. The District is now in the process of investigating a radio back up system to the Cablevision system that will provide a seamless operation in the future. Aside from well site communications, the main damage encountered was from downed trees and light poles. The District is in the process of filing for all reimbursable expenses from FEMA.

Grumman / Navy Contamination Plume Update

US Senator Charles Schumer Pays Second Visit to MWD

On September 19, 2011 US Senator Charles Schumer paid a second visit to the Massapequa Water District within 1 year for a major press release. In a prepared statement Senator Schumer expressed frustration with the slow response of the Navy and Grumman. Basically the Senator informed the Navy and Grumman "Times Up" and urged the USEPA to take a lead role for the clean-up of this highly toxic plume before more public supply wells are impacted. This press release provided a glimmer of hope that the NYSDEC will no longer be the lead agency to oversee the clean-up process. Under DEC guidance this toxic plume has continued to migrate south towards the public supply wells used by the Massapequa Water District. The DEC believes that wellhead treatment systems are acceptable to be used to treat contaminated supply wells. The Massapequa Water District Board of Commissioners is strongly opposed to this remediation method and have been advocating against wellhead treatment for over a decade. Wellhead treatment does not guarantee zero ingestion even if the treated water meets drinking water standards. As more studies are conducted on the known contaminants (TCE and PCE) and the adverse health affects are better known, the USEPA who set the standards: often reduce the maximum allowable levels. Wellhead treatment systems are also very large and have a smoke stack type of appearance that expel volatile organic compounds into the local atmosphere. These air emissions may also have to be treated under the continued guidelines of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation compounding the problem of wellhead treatment. Imagine the appearance of these systems in a residential neighborhood.

Be assured that the Massapequa Water District Board of Commissioners (BOC) has been hard at work opposing the DEC with their proposed selected remedy. Through meetings, letters, and conference phone calls the MWD has been successful in delaying the release of a Preliminary Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) which is believed to be severely flawed. This PRAP which eventually becomes a Record of Decision (ROD) dictates the course of action as far as remediation. Through meetings with the DEC wellhead treatment is still a possibility and the BOC will not

accept this method especially when MWD has proven less costly alternatives that remove any possible health risks or public exposure to the known contaminants. Two independent reports released this year by the EPA/USGS and the Navy Optimization Committee, support many of the points made by the MWD Board of Commissioners over the past 14 years and ignored by the responsible parties and the New York State DEC. MWD has been forced into almost weekly communications with the New York State DEC, New York State Department of Health, and the USEPA regarding their attempts to force the wellhead treatment issue upon the taxpayers. If not successful in convincing these agencies the District is planning a massive petition drive and public referendum for Governor Andrew Cuomo to step in and clean up this Superfund Site. MWD has continued to try and persuade the DEC and EPA to help us avoid a costly lawsuit spending taxpayers money at the local level against taxpayers

money at the State and Federal level. We the taxpayers of the Massapequa Water District must be concerned with the fact that since the New York State DEC and the USEPA have not done their job at the taxpayers expense. These agencies were derived and paid for with taxpayer's money to protect us from the types of Superfund contamination that has been allowed to infiltrate into our drinking water supply. These agencies and the principal responsible parties have also failed to respond to MWD's concern that we are the last water District that stands between the contaminated plume and the Great South Bay. If this contamination is allowed to reach the Great South Bay it could be disastrous to the local fishing, boating, and beach facilities that are recognized as among the best in the United States. One thing is certain, the Massapequa Water District Board of Commissioners is committed to protecting our vital water supply and stopping this contamination from entering the District.



On September 19, 2011 US Senator Charles Schumer held a press conference at Massapequa Water District. Above Commissioner Vincent Guadagno is shown participating.

Profile of Massapequa Water District

- The Massapequa Water District serves some 13,500 customers including 540 commercial firms in an area of 6.6 square miles.
- The estimated population of the Massapequa Water District is 48,000.
- In 2010 the District pumped a total of 1.80 billion gallons of water.
- The District can pump a maximum of 19 million gallons of quality water per day.
- In case of emergency, the Water District has 8 interconnections with the South Farmingdale Water District and Aqua New York.
- The District's transmission-distribution system consists of 146 miles of 6 to 20 inch mains.
- The Massapequa Water District acquires all water from underground wells and has a storage capacity of 4 million gallons with 1 elevated and 3 ground storage tanks.
- The Massapequa Water District was chartered in 1931 making it one of the oldest on Long Island.



Superintendent Stan Carey inspects recent work performed on the District's elevated storage tank at May Place. Through a proactive infrastructure maintenance program water was discovered in one of the support legs and was addressed immediately. The District's tank engineer using a state of the art underwater remote operation vehicle (ROV) confirmed the structural integrity of the tank had not been compromised.

In Memoriam Donald Farley



1936-2011

Donald Farley in Memoriam of thirty years of service as Superintendent of the Massapequa Water District from 1971 - 2001. A great addition to the Massapequa Water District, Don worked diligently to change the Massapequa Water District from a semi-rural Water District to a modern era District in our community.

In Memoriam Donald Randazzo



Donald Randazzo in Memoriam of 10 years of service as Water Servicer of the Massapequa Water District from November 2000 to January 2011. Donald loved working for the Water District and will be missed by all his coworkers.

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM
www.massapequawater.com

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. Flood
John F. Caruso
Vincent Guadagno

Superintendent
Stanley Carey

Business Manager
Constance Belegrinos

Assistant Superintendent
Andrew Colapinto

Office Manager
Kerri Alter

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Long Island Water Conference
Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners

Massapequa Chamber
of Commerce

American Waterworks Association
NYS Section - AWWA

24 Hour Emergency Number
516-798-5266

Massapequa Water District
84 Grand Avenue
Massapequa, NY 11758

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Preparing for Winter

Last winter was particularly harsh and a number of residents experienced frozen pipes and other related problems. The MWD encourages all residents to take a few precautions to protect from these difficulties.

- Wrap water pipes that are exposed to outside walls with insulation and/or electric coils made for that purpose.
- Outside water faucets should be shut off from inside your home, drained and left open.
- Where faucets are prone to freezing, turn the water on to a trickle. This movement will help prevent freezing.
- Drain all underground irrigation systems.
- If you are leaving for an extended winter vacation, have a friend or neighbor check on your residence.
- Finally, be certain all members of the household know the location of water shutoffs. This can save valuable time in case of an emergency.

Fall Hydrant Flushing A Success!

The District has recently completed another successful round of hydrant flushing which was performed during the week of October 16th. This again was a highly successful program from both an operational and public relations standpoint. The program performs two functions: first is to rid the system of accumulated sediments which would eventually surface in consumers homes and second is to check the operation of each hydrant to insure its availability in case of an emergency. This flushing has again reduced the number of complaints received by the District regarding water quality. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this semi-annual program.

**Keep all hydrants
clear of snow, ice and
other items that could
delay access in case
of an emergency.**



Notice something different with some fire hydrants in the area? These are hydrant flag markers that make hydrants more visible to the fire department during winter when snow can make hydrants difficult to locate. The Massapequa Water District in cooperation with the Massapequa Fire District embarked on a pilot program to install 125 marker flags on selected hydrants throughout the district. The markers performance will be monitored during the upcoming winter and a joint decision will be made to expand the program.